

Did you know...



Children love to sing, and when they play with words, as well as the smaller sounds in words, they are developing an early literacy skill called **phonological awareness**. Recognizing when words rhyme and hearing the beginning sounds of words are things that help children learn to read later on.

A common reason grown-ups don't sing with children is that they don't think they have a good singing voice. But young children don't really know a good singing voice from a bad one; they just want you to sing with them! It is helpful to slow songs down when you're singing with children, so they can hear the letter sounds and words more clearly.

For more information about how you can develop phonological awareness visit:

phonologicalawareness.org

Here's how...

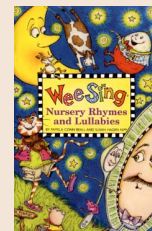


- ✿ Make up your own nonsense words and silly songs.
- ✿ Sing songs with your child every day. Songs break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds. In most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note.
- ✿ Add actions, such as clapping or bouncing, as you sing a song or say a poem.
- ✿ Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.
- ✿ Listen to music CDs as you travel in the car. Play a variety of music, as well as children's traditional songs.

Read



Wee Sing Nursery Rhymes and Lullabies, by Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagen Nipp



This special book and music CD of popular children's songs will help parents and caregivers learn lots of songs to sing with their children. Whether you're singing along with the CD or singing from memory, singing with your young child every day will help her develop important skills that she will need when it is time to learn to read.

Co-author Susan Hagen Nipp lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. In addition to producing many other Wee Sing CDs, she wrote *Mudgy and Millie*, a book about a mouse and a moose who play hide and seek around Coeur d'Alene.

Choosing Books



Other song books...

Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes, by Annie Kubler

The Itsy Bitsy Spider, by Iza Trapani

There Were Ten in the Bed, by Susan Chapman Calitri

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, by Caroline Jayne Church

Five Little Ducks, by Raffi

Old McDonald Had a Farm, by Hannah Wood



Homemade instruments...

- Drum — coffee can with lid or oatmeal tub
- Maracas (shakers) — water bottles or juice cans filled about 1/3 full with rice or dry beans. Seal the top with paper and tape.
- Tambourine — Put a small handful of dry beans inside two aluminum pie pans or sturdy paper plates. Seal together with duct tape and shake, shake, shake.
- Rhythm sticks — Hit two wooden spoons or pencils together>

Write



Drawing to music is a fun way to practice using writing tools. Talk to your child about the types of lines they can draw— curvy, straight, jagged, etc. Then play a song and encourage them to draw lines to the rhythm of the music. Explore different styles of music and different writing tools and see what your child creates.

Sing



Rock-a-bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby, on the tree top;
(*rock baby in your arms*)

When the wind blows, the cradle will rock,
(*sway your arms from side to side*)

When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
(*drop your head*)

And down will come baby, cradle and all.

Hear this tune at:

www.thelearninggroove.com

(under “Lyrics and Activities” then “song title”)



Little Boy Blue

Little boy blue, come blow your horn.
(*pretend to blow horn*)

The sheep are in the meadow (*point right*),
The cow is in the corn (*point left*).

Where is the little boy
That looks after the sheep?
(*hand over eyes - look around*)

He's under the haystack,
Fast asleep (*hands under cheek, eyes closed*).

Will you wake him?

No, not I (*shake head "no"*).

For if I do,
He'll surely cry (*pretend to cry*).



At your library...



Check at your library for CDs and DVDs of children's songs. You can find special holiday music or songs you can sing year-round!